

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00350 251051Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PER-01 ABF-01 FS-01 CPR-01

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

FBO-02 SCS-03 MCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01

USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05

/095 W

-----251100Z 106485 /15

Z 251009Z APR 77 ZFF-4

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

JCS WASHDC

OSD WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T ASMARA 0350

(FOR STATE ADDEES - CONGEN ASMARA DISPENSING WITH MCN'S)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMER

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF CONGEN ASMARA

1. AT 1030 HOURS LOCAL I MET WITH ATO MENGESHA AND THE FULL EPMG COMMITTEE ON TURNOVER OF KAGNEW AND THE CONGEN. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED THAN EARLIER, BUT THE EPMG OFFICIALS CLEARLY KNOW THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE AND ARE APPLYING PRESSURE TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL ON US.

2. THERE ARE TO BE NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE FREE MOVEMENT OF CONGEN STAFF IN ASMARA. MENGESHA AGREED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD ABIDE BY THE VIENNA CONVENTION AND INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE ON THE IN-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00350 251051Z

VIOLABILITY OF THE CONGEN PREMISES.

3. CONCERNING THE LOCAL EMPLOYEES, I SAID WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO SETTLE ALL SEVERANCE AND BENEFIT QUESTIONS WITHIN THE TIME PERMITTED YS BY THE EPMG, BUT THAT IF IT WAS NOT ALL RESOLVED WE WOULD LEAVE IT TO THE EMBASSY TO RESOLVE. THIS WAS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM.

4. AT THIS POINT I MADE TWO REQUESTS: (1) THAT THE CONGEN BE PERMITTED TO SEND BY UNCLASSIFIED POUCH ALL ACTIVE FILES CONCERNING CONSULAR, FINANCE, PERSONNEL AND CLAIMS MATTERS, AND (2) TO AIR POUCH "OFFICE EQUIPMENT" TO INCLUDE TYPEWRITERS, XEROX MACHINES, AND RADIOS (UNSPECIFIED). MENGESHA SAID HE WOULD CHECK WITH THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR AND GET BACK TO ME.

5. THIS LATTER IS A VITAL POINT. IF MENGESHA GIVES US A NEGATIVE ON THE LATTER REQUEST, WE WILL KNOW THAT NO REPEAT NO CRYPTO EQUIPMENT WILL BE SHIPPED OUT FROM THE CONGEN. IF HE GIVES AN AFFIRMATIVE, WE WILL AGAIN REVIEW THE POSSIBILITY OF SANITIZING THE CRYPTO COMMO GEAR AND ATTEMPTING TO TAKE IT WITH US IN THE AIR LIFT. AS A GENERAL PRINCIPAL I INTEND TO FOLLOW IN THIS CLOSURE OPERATION IS: NO EQUIPMENT WHICH CAN BE COMPROMISED IF THE EPMG GOES BACK ON ITS PROMISES AND DEMANDS INSPECTION, AND NO EQUIPMENT (SUCH AS SMALL ARMS, AMMUNITION OR LARGE SUMS OF MONEY), THE REVELATION OF WHICH WILL JEOPARDIZE THE PERSONAL SAFETY OF ANY AMERICAN, WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONGEN. THEREFORE, AT THE PRESENT TIME WE ARE PLANNING TO RENDER UNUSEABLE ALL SMALL ARMS IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF THE LAST DAY, PRESUMABLY APRIL 27, AND DROP THE PARTS AND AMMUNITION IN EITHER A WELL OR CESSPOOL. ON COMMO, WE WILL RETAIN A SECURE CIRCUIT UNTIL MID-MORNING APRIL 27 AND THEN SHIFT TO HF. IF THERE ARE ANY INDICATIONS THAT THERE WILL BE A FORCEFUL INTRUSION BEFORE THAT TIME WE WILL, OF COURSE, DESTROY IMMEDIATELY.

6. RE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF CONGEN STAFF, MENGESHA INSISTED THAT CONGEN COMPLY WITH SAME PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED AT KAGNEW, ALL PERSONAL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ASMARA 00350 251051Z

EFFECTS ARE TO BE INSPECTED BY A CUSTOMS OFFICIAL PRIOR TO THEIR BEING CLEARED FOR SHIPMENT. WHILE THIS VIOLATES OUR RIGHTS AND IMMUNITIES, I AM NOT INCLINED TO EDUCATE THESE LOCAL OFFICIALS ON DIPLOMATIC NICEITIES FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT. IF DEPT OR EMBASSY BELIEVE IT WORTHWHILE TO PROTEST, PLEASE ADVISE.

7. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, MENGESHA AND HIS DELEGATION REQUESTED A BRIEF TOUR OF THE CONGEN. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN A VERY PASSING FASHION AND THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A COMMO ROOM NEVER CAME TO THEIR ATTENTION.

8. JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTING THE COMPOUND, MENGESHA SAID THAT FROM THIS POINT ON, ONLY PERSONAL EFFECTS WILL BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE CONGEN. IMMEDIATELY THERE WERE PROBLEMS AS THE EPMG "FATHER FIGHTER" GUARDS WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE COMPOUND FOR MONTHS, PREVENTED AN FSL FROM TAKING PACKING EQUIPMENT FROM THE COMPOUND TO PACK MY EFFECTS. A CALL TO THE DIRECTOR APPEARS TO HAVE RESOLVED THE PROBLEM FOR THE MOMENT.
WAUCHOPE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSULATE CLOSING, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, EVACUATION PLANS
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Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: AEMR
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